AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the pending claims as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) Device for melting and conveying a material, comprising

a conveying channel having an admission opening for the material and a discharge opening for at least partially molten material,

one or more heating devices for heating one of the conveying channel and the material between the admission opening and the discharge opening, and

a slide which is reciprocally movable so as to convey the material from the admission opening to the discharge opening, wherein the conveying channel is tubular and has a double-walled configuration including an internal tube and an external tube, the slide being designed as a sliding sleeve which is located between the internal tube and the external tube, and wherein the slide includes a closing sleeve to close or open the conveying channel and a conveying sleeve which is movable independently of the closing sleeve.

2. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 1, wherein the conveying channel is reduced from a first diameter in a region of the admission opening to a smaller diameter in a region of the discharge opening, wherein the internal and external tubes of the conveying channel are axially movable toward each other, between a conveying position in which passage between the internal tube and the external tube is achieved, and a closing position in which the internal and external tubes are in close proximity to each other such that a material flow between the tubes is impeded.

3. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 1, wherein one of the internal and external tubes forms a plug for the discharge opening formed by the other tube, wherein the tubes are movable toward each other between an opening position and a closing position to open or close the discharge opening.

4. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 1, wherein the internal tube of the conveying channel is a solid, rod-type or cylindrical component.

5. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 1, wherein the heating device is arranged at least one of radially inside and radially outside the conveying channel.

6. (Currently Amended) Method for melting and conveying a material, comprising the steps of

introducing the material through an admission opening into a conveying channel ,

discharging the material from the channel through a discharge opening,

moving the material from the admission opening to the discharge opening with a reciprocally movable slide, and

heating the material when disposed in the conveying channel by one or more heating devices which are located between the admission opening and the discharge opening, wherein the material when at least partially melted is conveyed through narrowings formed in the conveying channel.

7. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 6, wherein the material is conveyed through a conveying channel having an annular cross section, further comprising the step of heating the material radially from outside the annular cross section and radially from inside the annular cross section.